Attorney's Docket No.: 10449-022001 / P1S2000177US

Applicant: Tohru Watanabe Serial No.: 09/696,393 Filed: October 25, 2000

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REMARKS

We acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 2-5, 13, 14, 17 and 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations recited in any base and intervening claims. We have amended dependent claims 2, 13, 17 to include the features recited in independent claims 1, 12, and 16, respectively (now cancelled) and have amended certain dependent claims so as not to not depend from a canceled claim.

Prior Art Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 7-8, 12, and 15-16 as anticipated by Watanabe (U.S. 5,854,655). We submit that the rejections of claims 1, 12, and 16 are most in view of applicant's having canceled these claims. In view of the amendments discussed above, we submit that the remaining claims are now in condition for allowance.

No fee is believed to be due. Please apply any other charges, not covered, or credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket Number 10449-022001.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Oulel

Date: 12006

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